

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1942.

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking, Braintree.

July, 1942.



Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you a short report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for the year 1942. War-time conditions again necessitate that this forms a brief review instead of the usual statistical account. No separate report is being submitted by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose work for the year is incorporated in this report.

Again it is pleasing to be able to state that the general health of the district remained satisfactory throughout the year.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There were no changes in the general health services provided in the district during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

A sample taken from Bradwell Springs on the 25th February, 1942, was reported on by the County Bacteriologist as follows :-

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

Appearance - Clear and bright.	Odour	Nil.
Colour - Normal.	Free Carbonic Acid	2.5
Reaction pH - Neutral: 7.2.	Total solids dried	
Electric Conductivity at 20°C - 670	at 180°C	45.0
Chlorine in chlorides - 2.7	Alkalinity as	
	Calcium Carbonate -	28.0
Hardness: Total - 35.0	Temporary 26.0 Permanent -	9.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates - 0.28	Nitrites -	Absent.
Free Ammonia - 0.0112	Ammoniacal Nitrogen -	Absent.
Albuminoid Ammonia - 0.0016	Albuminoid Nitrogen -	-
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F - 0.015		
Metals	Other metals absent.	
	Free Chlorine reaction	0.2 p.p.m.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of "Bacteria" growing) on Agar per c.c. or ml. in)	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C
	0	1

3 days at 20°C

The Bacillus Coli..... Present in..... Absent in.....100c.c..

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character although not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

No sample was taken from the Braintree Road Waterworks in 1942.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Witham Sewage Works.

Samples of the effluent taken by the Southend Waterworks Company numbered 50, of these 41 were satisfactory, and 9 were unsatisfactory. Those taken by the Essex County Council produced 2 unsatisfactory and 2 satisfactory results.

Silver End Sewage Works.

Samples taken by the Essex County Council numbered 4, of these 3 were unsatisfactory and 1 satisfactory.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

The combined collection of refuse and salvage instituted in 1940 continued throughout 1942.

HOUSING.

A total of sixteen licenses to occupy condemned houses were granted during the year, these being extensions of the original period in the case of the eight houses licensed for the first time in 1940.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Inspections were carried out of all the premises in the District engaged in the production or sale of milk. No samples were taken during the year.

Meat.

The number of animals slaughtered during the period was 8,092 of which 7,687 were inspected (94.99%). As a result of inspections the total weight of Meat and Offal condemned was 99,586 lbs. (44 tons. 9 cwt. 18lbs.) of which 38 tons 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 27 lbs. was affected with Tuberculosis.

Of all the animals inspected 12.95% were found to be affected by Tuberculosis, and 10.73% by other diseased conditions.

Visits paid by the Sanitary Inspector during the year were 375, of which 372 were paid to slaughterhouses and 3 to butchers' shops.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious Disease were reported during the year:

Scarlet Fever	6	Dysentery	11
Whooping Cough	6	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Measles	4	Puerperal Pyrexia	2

All the cases of Dysentery occurred at Bridge Home, the Witham Branch of the Royal Eastern Counties Institution.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

During 1942, regular sessions were held at the Child Welfare Centre, Congregational Hall, Newland Street, Witham. These were attended by children of pre-school age, and also by a large number of school children who, for various reasons, had not been immunised when the schools were visited in 1941. The total number of children completely immunised at the end of 1942 was as follows :-

Children aged 5-15 (i.e., school children)	879.
Children under 5 years (i.e., pre-school children)	382.

These figures represent approximately 81% and 64% of the child population of the district in the respective age groups.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 94, and was made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
Male	Female.	Male.	Female.
30	32	20	12.

New cases notified during the year numbered 18. These were made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
9	6	1	2

During the year there were 5 deaths of patients on the Tuberculosis Register.

EVACUATION.

Again as in the two previous years, the number of evacuees diminished. The general health of the children remaining in the Urban District continued to be satisfactory.

In December, my predecessor, Doctor Moffat left to join the Forces. You will understand that the bulk of this report is based on his work.

I wish to thank the Council Offices who have kindly assisted me in compiling it.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. G. BENJAMIN.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

